

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This Action is in response to Applicant's amendment filed on April 11, 2008. Claims 37-70 are still pending in the present application. **This Action is made FINAL.**

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 37-70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bennett et al. (U.S. Patent Publication Number 2002/0112014).

Regarding claim 37, Bennett et al. discloses a telecommunications services apparatus for use with a mobile telephone network utilising a first message delivery function, the apparatus comprising routing means for identifying a characteristic in a message signal received in the telephone network, and message processing means for translating a short form destination address in the message signal into a full destination address for a second message delivery function, the address translation being effected using a predefined syntax (which reads on paragraphs 0006 -0007), and the routing means being operable to send the message signal to the message processing means in response to identification of the characteristic in the message signal, wherein the characteristic in the message signal to be identified by the routing means is when the destination address is in alphanumeric form, and wherein the alphanumeric destination

address is carried within an SMS destination address field (which reads on paragraph 0019-030).

Regarding claim 38, Bennett et al. discloses a including message delivery means for forwarding the message signal to the translated full destination address according to the second message delivery function (which reads on paragraph 0006-007), the message delivery means being additionally operable to receive a reply message signal from the original destination address and to forward the reply message signal to the message processing means for enabling translation of the reply destination address into accord with the first message delivery function such that the reply message signal may be sent to the originator of the original message signal (which reads on paragraph 0019-030).

Regarding claim 39, Bennett et al. discloses a first message delivery function is a mobile network text message function (which reads on paragraph 0019-030).

Regarding claim 40, Bennett et al. discloses a mobile network text message function is in accordance with the short message service (SMS) (which reads on paragraph 0019-030).

Regarding claim 41, Bennett et al. discloses a second message delivery function is an email function (which reads on paragraph 0019-030).

Regarding claim 42, Bennett et al. discloses a translation according to the predefined syntax

involves adding a specific service provider email domain to the short form destination address (which reads on paragraph 0019-030).

Regarding claim 43, Bennett et al. discloses a translation according to the predefined syntax is invoked when the short form destination address includes one or more predetermined characters (which reads on paragraph 0019-030).

Regarding claim 44, Bennett et al. discloses a translation according to the predefined syntax is invoked when the short form destination address ends with the one or more predetermined characters (which reads on paragraph 0019-030).

Regarding claim 45, Bennett et al. discloses a predetermined character is "@" (which reads on paragraph 0019-030).

Regarding claim 46, Bennett et al. discloses a predetermined characters are "@" followed by one or more other characters identifying corresponding specific service providers to enable translation to the respective service provider email domain (which reads on paragraph 0019-030).

Regarding claim 47, Bennett et al. discloses a second message delivery function is a VPN function (which reads on paragraph 0019-030).

Regarding claim 48, Bennett et al. discloses a second message delivery function is in accordance with the short message service (SMS) (which reads on paragraph 0019-030).

Regarding claim 49, Bennett et al. discloses a translation according to the predefined syntax is invoked when the short form destination address includes one or more predetermined characters (which reads on paragraph 0019-030).

Regarding claim 50-67, Bennett et al. discloses a translation according to the predefined syntax is invoked when the short form destination address ends with the one or more predetermined characters (which reads on paragraph 0019-030).

Regarding claims 68-70, Bennett et al. discloses a message signal routing is performed by an SMS router (which reads on paragraph 0019-030).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments, filed on April 11, 2008, with respect to **claim 37** have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Bennett does not disclose **"routing based on identifying a characteristic in a message signal where the characteristic is the use of an alphanumeric form of destination address in an SMS destination field; and translating a short for destination address to a full destination address using a predefined syntax"** for claim 37 (see Remarks pages 7-8).

In response to the preceding arguments examiner respectfully submits that **Bennett**

teaches “**routing based on identifying a characteristic in a message signal where the characteristic is the use of an alphanumeric form of destination address in an SMS destination field; and translating a short for destination address to a full destination address using a predefined syntax**”. Bennett discloses a method for routing a message from a sender to a receiver in a different mobile network which includes short messages service (SMS) in which has different routing information and different electronic addressing formats. Further, SMS message is sent from sender to receiver; where the sender is identify a destination associate with receiver, a corresponding device, and a user's mobile identification number (MIN) or phone number. The sender may send an email message, which is converted into SMS messages. The email may send an email address which includes alphanumeric form of the destination address, whereby the email message body may be sent as the SMS message. Additionally, once it is determined that the message does not begin with phone number, the message may include an alphanumeric indicator that may be a buddy. Also, a translation process is used in sending an SMS message via SMTP email, whereby the text field input is translated into an SMTP email format (**paragraph 52, 101-102 and 132**).

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Liton Miah whose telephone number is (571)270-3124. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7:30am to 5:00pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rafael Perez-Gutierrez can be reached on (571)272-7915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

LM

/Rafael Pérez-Gutiérrez/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2617